



## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

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593769

TO: John Fitzgerald, P.E., Principal Sanitary Engineer *JF*

BY: Ida Babroudi, Senior Sanitary Engineer *IB*

DATE: December 1, 1986

SUBJECT: MIDDLETON - American Glue & Resin, Inc.  
40 School Street, Middleton, MA 01949, Cheryl A.  
Auterio (617) 774-7111 - DEQE Case No. 3-168

On October 23, 1986, the writer and Phil DiPietro of the Division of Water Pollution Control visited the American Glue & Resin, Inc. facility. The Department personnel met with Cheryl Auterio of American Glue & Resin, Inc. The purpose of the visit was to conduct a site inspection in response to two different complaints received by this office. One complaint was from the Town Administrator regarding industrial wastes and the other was from Mrs. Sandra Pollock through Richard Hebert of E.C. Jordan, Maine regarding the presence of VOC's in significant levels in the tap water from 34 School Street. The writer had called Leo Cormier of the Bd. of Health at 774-5659 on October 22, 1986, to inform him of the visit but he had been out of town. Note that this company is also apparently known as Glennon American Adhesives. Attached are locus maps.

SITE INFORMATION

American Glue & Resin, Inc. is a manufacturer of customized adhesives. Water based adhesives and corn dextrin (like Elmer's glue) are the main products. Attached is a material safety data sheet for one of the key base polymers (Polyvinyl Acetate) used in the adhesive "recipes". Another ingredient is Ethylene Vinyl acetate. Other chemicals used by this company are: toluene ( 700 G/month), 1,1,1-trichloroethane ( 1.5 drums (55G)/month), alcohol, formaldehyde ( 10 G/year), caustics, chlorox, and acids. The writer screened the material safety data sheets for products manufactured at this plant and concluded that some of the products contained toluene, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, and acids in 4-6% ranges. Apparently the toluene and 1,1,1-trichloroethane contents control the drying time for the adhesive. Ms. Auterio was not clear in describing the manufacturing processes; attached are definitions of some of the terms used by her.

There are three known underground tanks on-site, 1-3,000G toluene tank, 1-3,000G fuel oil tank, and 1-unknown capacity, abandoned gasoline tank.

Ms. Auterio asserted that she did not know who the gasoline tank belonged to. She apparently had to take over the company about two years ago after her father had died and there were a lot of things she did not know. She also indicated that she had been in contact with Zecco and the local fire department since she had been planning to remove the toluene tank.

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The wastes generated at this site are: 1. Washwaters from cleaning the process vats (reused and recirculated according to Ms. Auterio); 2. Steam (wastewater discharged to the ground). Ms. Auterio had apparently contracted Northeast Solvents to sample the washwater to determine if it is a hazardous waste or not, and to train employees. Improper management of the washwaters (such as open top pails, stored outside; 50 drums some in poor condition, stored outside) was observed. There were drains inside the facility that were either clogged and had standing liquid in them or looked like dry wells. Note that sanitary waste is discharged to a cesspool system with leaching fields.

American Glue & Resin reconditions drums on-site, basically putting a new liner in and repainting the outside of it. Other reconditioning is done through Ryan Barrel. 5G of paint is used per month for repainting of these drums.

While touring the facility the writer observed about 15-3,000G above ground tanks/vats (some fiberglass, some metal), paperbags, drums, pails, and totes (holds six drums), some marked or identified with the following: alcohols, sodium nitrate, starch, borax pentahydrate and phosphoric acid; others were unknown and unmarked.

A metal building was full of junk making it impossible for the writer to walk inside. There were wooden pallets (survived from a fire); and locked trailers (full of product) outside. A pipe was observed discharging to the brook but there was no indication of where it was coming from.

A water sample (IB5) of the tap water from the quality control laboratory was obtained by the Department personnel. An H-Nu PI-101 registered 0.5 (ppm as benzene) when the headspace of this sample was taken. The HNU registered 45 (ppm as benzene) when the probe was lowered on top of a glue drum. Note that a background reading of 0.5 to 1 (ppm as benzene) inside prevented the writer from detecting anomalies at the clogged drains. The HNU did not register anything at the drains (Catch Basins) outside either.

EVIDENCE OF OIL/HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RELEASE

- Results of the laboratory analysis of the groundwater sample IB5 (see the attached laboratory report).

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POTENTIAL FOR OIL/HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RELEASE

- The three underground tanks of unknown status.
- The subsurface disposal system (the cesspool with leaching fields).
- Improper management of wastewaters, resulting in spills and other releases.

OTHER RELATED MATTER

The contaminated water is used in processes only and the company buys drinking water from another source.

Right to know was also informed of the status of this company by the writer.

The writer checked with Air Quality for additional information, but there were no air files for American Glue & Resin, Inc.

The writer checked with John Keating of Water Supply regarding the public water supplies in the area. Emerson Brook is diverted to Middleton Pond which is a water supply source in that area.

IB/gg